

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 5, and 11 are now pending in this application. Claim 11 is newly added. Claims 3-5 are amended to depend from claim 11. Claims 1, 2, and 6-10 are herein canceled. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Foglia, U.S. Patent No. 3,560,291. Claims 1-7 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Greig, GB 2276584, in view of Foglia.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are canceled, rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Further, claims 3-5 are amended to depend from new claim 11.

New claim 11 is directed to a process for producing a plastic composite tube in which at least two adjacent tapes are wound on and fusion-bonded to an unoriented plastic core by means of electromagnetic radiation. Each tape comprises at least one plastic layer, which is oriented in at least one direction and is transparent to the radiation. Each tape further comprises at least one layer that partially absorbs energy transported by the radiation, with this layer containing carbon black as a material for absorbing the electromagnetic radiation. One face of each tape of the presently claimed assembly is fusion-bonded to the unoriented plastic core.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Foglia. As noted above, the rejections of claims 1 and 2 are rendered moot by their cancellation. As amended, claims 3-5 depend from new claim 11. Claim 11 is directed to a process for producing a plastic composite tube in which at least two adjacent tapes are wound on and fusion-bonded to an unoriented plastic core. Foglia does not teach or suggest fusion bonding at least two

tapes to an unoriented plastic core to form a composite tube. Failing to teach or suggest this limitation, Foglia cannot anticipate claims 3-5. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 3-5.

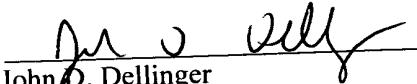
Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Greig, in view of Foglia. Of these, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are rendered moot by their cancellation. Claims 3-5 are amended to depend from claim 11, as noted above. The process of claim 11 requires that each tape comprises at least one layer that partially absorbs energy transported by the radiation, with this layer containing carbon black as a material for absorbing the electromagnetic radiation. To the contrary, Greig discloses a process in which carbon black incorporated into a tubular support is used as the absorptive material. Thus, the Greig process requires winding of all of the desired layers of tape on the support, with irradiation and fusion provided as a single step, fusing all of the layers together. The present invention allows separate bonding of each layer to its respective next lowest level. Foglia also fails to teach or suggest that each tape comprises at least one layer that partially absorbs energy transported by the radiation, with this layer containing carbon black. Failing to teach or suggest this limitation, Applicants respectfully urge that claims 3-5 cannot be rendered obvious by Greig, in view of Foglia. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of these rejections.

Application No. 10/505,456  
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Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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